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MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

CIA/001/WHIZ 741115

SOURCE REF :

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0: IMMEDIATE WHITE HOUSE//SITUATION ROOM FOR MR FAZIO

TATE RCI//OPERATIONS CENTER MR FRY, NMCC//ATTENTION 25X1A9a

IA REP, TREASURY DEPT//INFO FOR

ARNING NOTICE SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND METHODS

NVOLVED

TEM NO: 0

DATE: 15 NOVEMBER 1974

UBJECT: INDIAN CRITICISM OF US ACTIVITIES IN INDIAN OCEAN

EF : FSIS 43, 15 NOV 74;

25X1A6a

TODAY IN NEW DELHI A CONFERENCE ORGANIZED BY INTERNATIONAL OMMUNIST FRONT ORGANIZATIONS ADOPTED A REISOLUTION DEMANDING HE IMMEDIATE WITHDRAWAL OF THE US TASK FORCE THAT ENTERED THE NDIAN OCEAN LAST WEEK. THE CONFERMENCE ALSO CALLED FOR REMOVAL F ALL FOREIGN BASES IN THE REGION.

THE CONFERENCE WAS GIVEN SOME STATURE BY AN INAUGURAL ADDRESS
Y INDIAN FOREIGN MINISTER Y. B. CHAVAN ON NOVEMBER 14. THE
NDIANS HAVE TOLD US EMBASSY OFFICIALS THAT CHAVAN'S PARTICIPATION
AS ONLY A "COURTESY" AND THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT BE

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OFFICIALLY REPRESENTED AT ANY OTHER SESSION DURING THE 3-DAY CONFERENCE.

CHAVAN'S REMARKS WERE FULLY CONSISTENT WITH INDIA'S WELL ESTABLISHED OPPOSITION TO MAJOR POWER PRESENCE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN, ITS OPPOSITION TO THE EXPANSION OF US NAVAL FACILITIES ON THE ISLAND OF DIEGO GARCIA, AND ITS SUPPORT FOR A PROPOSED UN CON-FERENCE ON THE INDIAN OCEAN.

THE FOREIGN MINISTER, HOWEVER, DID NOT MENTION THE PRESENCE OF US FLEET UNITS IN THE AREA, NOR DID HE SINGLE OUT FITHER THE US OR USSR FOR CRITICISM. INSTEAD HE REFERRED TO THE GENERAL PROBLEM OF GREAT POWER RIVALRY IN SURROUNDING WATERS. HIS SPEECH WAS BALANCED AND MODERATE IN COMPARISON TO OTHERS THAT FOLLOWED.

CHAVAN'S APPEARANCE MAY HAVE BEEN A SOP TO NOISY INDIAN LEFTISTS UHO HAVE BEEN PRESSING THE GOVERNMENT HARD ON THE INDIAN OCEAN ISSUE, AND ARE UNHAPPY WITH THE MORE FAVORABLE TREND INDO-US RELUATIONS. E-2 IMPDET.A

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